

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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R 261127Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 393

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DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR SAODAP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, AMED, IR

SUBJECT: DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM IN TEHRAN

REFS: A. STATE 17695 B. STATE 29498

1. SUMMARY: DRUG ABUSE IS NOT AT THE PRESENT TIME A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM FOR THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN TEHRAN. HOWEVER, THE NEED FOR A COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER IS PERCEIVED AND THE EMBASSY IS ASSISTING IN EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH ONE. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH EMBASSY CONCURRENCE THE U.S. AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS IN COORDINATION WITH THE U.S. ARMY OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING DURING THE PAST 2 1/2 MONTHS A DRUG ABUSE SURVEY AMONG CHILDREN AT THE TEHRAN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL. THE SURVEY RESULTED FROM DISCOVERY THAT A CHILD WAS PEDDLING HASHISH TO HIS SCHOOLMATES. THE SURVEY WAS UNDERTAKEN NOT TO APPREHEND AND PUNISH DRUG ABUSERS BUT TO PROVIDE THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY WITH CONCRETE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXTENT OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG TEENAGERS IN TEHRAN AND TO GAIN SOME UNDERSTANDING OF WHY THEY TURN TO DRUGS. IT WAS CONDUCTED ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, I.E. ONLY IF BOTH THE CHILD AND HIS PARENTS AGREED DID AN INTERVIEW TAKE PLACE.

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3. THIS VOLUNTARY SURVEY HAS JUST ABOUT REACHED THE POINT OF DIMINISHING RETURNS AND THE FOLLOWING RESULTS CAN BE REPORTED: (1) ABOUT 50 STUDENTS WHO ARE FAIRLY REGULAR ABUSERS HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED. (2) IT IS EVIDENT THAT ABOUT ANOTHER 100 HAVE PROBABLY ONLY EXPERIMENTED WITH DRUGS ON WEEKENDS. (3) AMONG THESE ONLY FOUR PROBABLE CASES OF HEROIN ABUSE (SNIFFING) WERE DISCOVERED. (4) HASHISH IS THE DRUG MOST OFTEN ABUSED BUT AMONG THE YOUNGER CHILDREN BARBITURATES PREDOMINATE. A DRUG CALLED MILSISINE MANUFACTURED LOCALLY FROM AN ENGLISH PATENT, WHICH PRODUCES A HIGH CHARACTERIZED BY DROWSINESS AND NUMBNESS, HAS ALSO BEEN POPULAR AMONG SOME OF THE YOUNGER ABUSERS.

4. A SERIES OF MEETINGS OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN HELD IN WHICH OUR NEEDS IN TEHRAN HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. THE LATEST OF THESE WAS CALLED TO MEET DR. ROBERT L. DUPONT, DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE ON DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION. THE CONSENSUS OF THESE MEETINGS IS THAT DRUG ABUSE IS NOT AT THIS TIME A SERIOUS PROBLEM AMONG TEENAGERS IN THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY. ON THE CONTRARY, THE BASIC PROBLEM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY APPEARS TO BE ONE OF PERSONAL ADAPTATION TO AN ALIEN ENVIRONMENT AND THE EXCESSIVE STRAINS THIS PLACES UPON RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN FAMILIES. REACTIONS TAKE THE FORM OF ALL SORTS OF ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR SUCH AS ALCOHOLISM, CHILD-BEATING, AND THE LIKE, AND DRUG ABUSE IS THE LEAST OF THESE.

5. THE COMMUNITY IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A HEALTH CENTER OPEN TO ALL AMERICANS IN TEHRAN BUT IS NOT AT THIS STAGE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM AGENCIES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THE EMBASSY IS CONTINUING TO PARTICIPATE IN AND PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THESE EFFORTS.

6. SAODAP IS REQUESTED TO SEND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS IN SINGAPORE AND JAKARTA, WHICH APPEAR TO BE POSTS HAVING CONDITIONS MOST SIMILAR TO THOSE IN TEHRAN.
HELMS

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